

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification page 2, line 23 as follows:

However, since room-temperature molten salts are liquid but nonvolatile, they cannot be distilled and have problems with purification. For example, in order to efficiently separate the salt (MX), which is a by-product in the process of the above reaction scheme, the following methods were proposed: a method using an expensive silver salt (J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun. (1992), 96 965); a method using the difference in solubilities (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 1996-259543); and methods comprising the step of neutralizing a tertiary amine with an organic acid to give an onium salt by protonation (Electrochem. Acta, 45, 1291 (2000); J. Electrochem. Soc., 147, 4168 (2000); Electrochem. Solid-State Lett., 4, E25 (2001); etc.). The methods using salt exchange or solubility differences are disadvantageous in view of cost and efficiency. The method of synthesizing a protonated onium salt is easy and simple, but the protonated onium salt has lower performance than alkylated onium salts.